

a major operation, that is, an offensive of his own, until more Americans arrive on the scene. That the action, so far as it has been carried, has been a brilliant success and has proved entirely effective, it is said, will not move Gen. Foch from his plan, which is to strike only when he is ready, but to strike with tremendous force.

Some of the commentators both here and in France are inclined to the view that this major operation is not so far distant, and that when it comes the British, taking the offensive in their sector, badly depleted of German reserves by the urgent demands of the Crown Prince's army, now almost pocketed in their boasted Meuse salient, will strike eastward in great force and try to sweep the Germans out of the whole area they have occupied since their offensive began on March 21.

NEW ATTACK ON Foe SOUTH OF SOISSONS

Continued from First Page.

19 (delayed)—American troops participating in the Franco-American advance late today of about a mile and a quarter on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry front went forward against strong machine gun fire over ground covered with German.

From a hill east of Domiers, about six kilometers southwest of Soissons, the correspondent Friday saw the Americans going into action in the forward movement. The advance was well organized and the system worked well from one end of the line to the other.

Under a barrage from 75s and 88s American infantry and machine guns advanced through rippling grain fields, trampled by the retreating Germans Thursday, and reached their objectives according to schedule despite the fire of German machine guns. The bombardment of the big German guns was feeble at this point.

The Americans started from a point just west of the Paris-Soissons road near the shell shattered village of Misy-aux-Bois, advancing nearly a kilometer before the Germans began to resist with their big guns to the American barrage. Misy-aux-Bois lies in a valley, and the Americans were advancing up grade toward the east end of the Marne valley and there preceding the infantrymen, as the Americans progressed the enemy barrage fire increased.

The hillside east of Domiers, over which the Americans advanced, were dotted with dead. The entire region was well within the German line until after the Franco-American offensive of Thursday. One quickly dug trench had been filled with German bodies. They were machine gunners who had been caught by the terrific fire of the allied artillery. In many places the trench was filled with piles, while a trench on the crest of a hill contained more than 100 dead.

Airmen Make Quick Reports.

After intense barrage fire along the entire front from Soissons to Chateau Thierry, the allied advance this evening (Friday) opened exactly at 5:30 o'clock. As far as the eyes could reach could be seen allied observation balloons while the sky was specked with allied airplanes darting in various directions, many returning from over the German lines to make a quick reconnaissance of the result of the fire of the big guns. From the hillside the smoke and dust thrown up by the allied shells could be seen away beyond the advancing Americans.

Behind the advancing troops came American trucks loaded with chocolate, tobacco and various comforts. The trucks went back and forth steadily. Other trucks went from place to place providing foodstuffs and water for the Americans and were to follow their advancing comrades.

The chauffeurs of these trucks were frequently under fire. One chauffeur was killed through the chest by a shell fragment. The other was wounded in the leg by a shell fragment. The trucks were carrying supplies for the advancing men with chocolate, just as three German shells exploded within the wrecked village.

Twenty-five minutes after the Franco-American advance began the rattle of German machine guns could be heard in the distance, but it did not affect the Americans, who only appeared more eager to progress. The officers had to caution them not to proceed beyond the barrage in accordance with the schedule. The German machine gun fire continued but at a short time, and the Americans could be seen steadily pressing forward eastward the rattle dwindled and finally stopped.

Village Wrecked by Shell Fire.

Misy-aux-Bois was deserted by the French peasants before the Germans came. The village having been torn from end to end by shell fire in previous fighting. Not one wall or any stone buildings are standing. The only thing in the village, which is now within the allied lines, were three pigeons which roosted on the fragments of the steeple of the village church during the roar of the battle. They flew around in circles in bewilderment, returned to their roosting places and then flew around again. Soon after the Americans had passed through the village going eastward the dog mascot of an American soldier could be seen running through the rubble and endeavoring to overtake his master, who had gone ahead.

To the north and south of Misy-aux-Bois are two other deserted villages, in one of which every building is in ruins. The fields in this section are covered with grain ready for the harvest. Many rusty tools and implements are standing just where they were left when the alarm was given.

When darkness settled over the battlefield the Americans still maintained their advance. The guns in the rear were pounding away, guarding them through the night.

GETTING NEARER TO OULCHY.

Allies Rapidly Approaching Highway to Rheims.

PARIS, July 20.—The newspapers confirm the excellent impression created by the latest official communication. The intramural says:

"In spite of the considerable number of reserves brought forward by the enemy we approach nearer and nearer to Oulchy and the Chateau Thierry-Rheims highway. On other parts of the front attacked the Germans are being thrown back at numerous points. The number of prisoners increases hourly."

La Liberté says that the present counter offensive, which originated from a simple tactical maneuver, may rapidly become one of the decisive strategic operations of the war.

GERMANS CONTROL SOVIET OF IRKUTSK

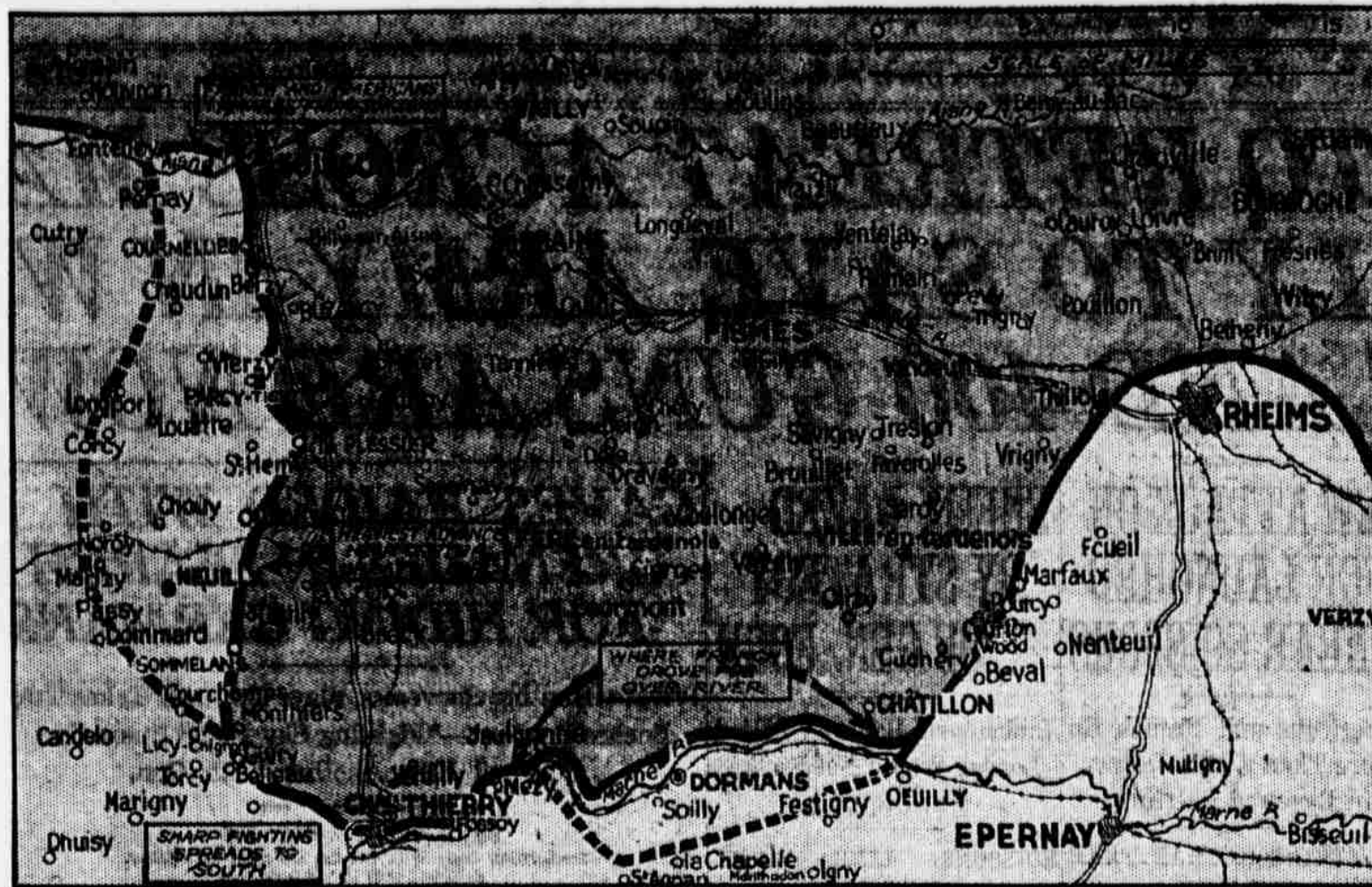
Japanese Believe Crisis Now Has Been Reached.

By the Associated Press.

TOKIO, July 16 (delayed).—Advice received here from Irkutsk are to the effect that former German prisoners in the guise of internationalists have obtained control of the Soviet Government of that city. This is regarded here as changing the complexion of the Russian situation.

Best opinion in Tokyo is unanimous that the question of intervention must be handled with the greatest delicacy, but it is generally agreed that the matter has reached a crisis. Japanese interest is centered in Washington, where an important exchange of views is believed to be in progress.

Where French and Americans are Fast Increasing Their Gains on Battle Front



STILL driving ahead the Franco-American advance into the Marne salient shows some tendency to work down toward the south, possibly with the view of accelerating the retreat of the Germans toward the north, which apparently already has begun.

The entire region south of the Marne has been cleared of German troops, while on the western side of the salient the Allies have made an additional advance of a mile on an average over the whole front from

near Soissons to Belleau, northwest of Chateau Thierry. At Soissons the French are within a mile and a half of the city, which is completely dominated by the American artillery posted on the heights to the south-west.

On the eastern side of the salient, in the region about Pourcy, some additional gains were made by the Italians and French. It is believed now that Rheims is no longer in great peril.

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE BATTLE

LONDON, July 20.—Following are the official reports on the fighting in France and Flanders:

FRENCH (NIGHT)—We have not had long to wait for the result of our victorious counter offensive. The Germans, violently attacked on their right flank and south of the Marne, have been compelled to retreat and recross the river.

We hold the whole south bank of the Marne. Between the Aisne and the Marne, Franco-American troops continue to progress and have driven back the enemy, who is resisting stubbornly.

We have reached Ploisy and Percy-Tigny and have passed beyond St. Remy-Blanzy and Roset-St. Albin.

Further south we hold the general line of the Priez Plateau, northeast of Courchamps.

Between the Marne and Rheims violent combats continue. Franco-British troops attacking vigorously encountered large forces. Notwithstanding the enemy's desperate resistance we gained ground in Courton Wood, the Ardre Valley and in the direction of St. Euphrase.

The number of prisoners we have taken since July 18, exceeds 20,000. More than 400 guns have been captured.

Our aviators, redoubling their activity in the day and night of the 19th, multiplied their raids and engaged in the severest battles against enemy forces. Franco-British bombing squadrons, taking the Marne crossings as their principal objectives, have ceaselessly hampered, and at certain points completely stopped, the enemy supply service, thus playing an important role in the conflict which was about to provoke the retreat of the German troops.

Attacking with machine guns and bombs concentration of troops which the enemy was preparing for counter attack and his columns of convoys, our aviators inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

On the Marne and also at Oulchy-le-Chateau, Fere-en-Tardenois, Fismes and Bazoches and over the whole rear of the battlefield twenty-four tons of projectiles were dropped during the day, and twenty-eight tons at night on enemy assemblages of troops and communications.

A violent conflagration broke out at Vouziers, and several fires were started at Fere-en-Tardenois and the station at Fismes. Explosions were observed at the station at Laon. Simultaneously our infantry airplanes indicated an advance of our troops and tanks between the Aisne and the Marne and reported the arrival of enemy reserves, and by machine gunning the latter directly participated in the battle.

Numerous combats were engaged in by our crews in conjunction with the British airmen and achieved good results. Twenty-six German airplanes were brought down or disabled and four captive balloons were set afire. Everywhere the German aviation service was able to appreciate the dash and superiority of the allied airmen.

FRENCH (DAY)—Yesterday and last night French and American troops continued their advance over the greater part of the front between the Aisne and the Marne.

Vierzy has been reached and the troops have gone beyond Mauley Wood, east of Villers-Helen and conquered Neuilly-St. Front and Liey-Clignon.

South of the Marne our troops have driven back the Germans between Fossy and Oeuilly and have gained ground toward the Marne.

GERMAN (DAY)—The activity of the British increased in isolated sectors toward Mettern. They obtained a footing in Mettern, but otherwise their repulse left prisoners in our hands.

Between the Aisne and the Marne the battle continues. Again the enemy started an attack with a view to a breach on the whole front. Tanks penetrated early in the morning into parts of our foremost lines. After a desperate struggle the first enemy thrust had been defeated toward noon on the heights southwest of Soissons, west of Hartennes-St. Neuilly and northwest of Chateau Thierry.

Between the Aisne and the Ourcq an attack broke down under our counter thrusts, and to the south of the Ourcq, mostly by our fire. North of Hartennes we threw back the enemy beyond the original line; our troops report the heaviest enemy losses. A large number of tanks were demolished before our front.

South of the Marne there was moderate firing activity during the day. Southeast of Mareuil enemy partial attacks were repulsed.

During the night our troops south of the Marne were withdrawn to the north bank of the river without being noticed by the enemy.

Northwest of Souain French advances were sanguinarily repulsed.

Again yesterday thirty enemy airplanes and seven captive balloons were shot down.

BRITISH (NIGHT)—During the day our minor operations in the Hebuterne sector have been continued with success. Under the pressure of our troops the enemy has been compelled to withdraw from Rossignol Wood, between Hebuterne and Bucquoy, and this important local feature is now in our possession. The enemy was followed up closely by our troops and suffered a number of casualties.

Our total capture in yesterday's operations at Mettern amount to 453 prisoners, ten trench mortars and fifty machine guns.

BRITISH (DAY)—As a result of our operations yesterday, our line in the Mettern sector has been advanced on a front of about 4,000 yards and both the village of Mettern and the group of buildings to the southwest of it, known as Le Waton, are now held by our troops.

English troops carried out a successful raid during the night near Beaumont-Hamel and captured a few prisoners and a machine gun.

Further north, English troops pushed our line forward on a front of about a mile south of Hebuterne, after sharp fighting.

BRITISH CAPTURE WOOD AT HEBUTERNE

Prussians Prate of "Unfairness" in Daylight Attack on Mettern.

SURPRISE WAS COMPLETE

Troops Had No Chance to Dig Trenches and Morale Was Low.

LONDON, July 20.—The Germans, under heavy pressure, have been forced to withdraw from Rossignol Wood, between Hebuterne and Bucquoy, and this strategically important position is now in the hands of the British, according to tonight's War Office communication.

As the result of yesterday's operation on the Flanders front the British line was advanced along a breadth of 4,000 yards in the Mettern sector. The village of Mettern and a group of buildings southwest of the village, known as Le Waton, are now held by the British troops. The prisoners taken aggregate 453.

British troops last night also advanced their line on a mile front south of the town of Hebuterne, the War Office announced today. A successful raid was carried out by the British near Beaumont-Hamel.

Hebuterne is about midway on the front between Albert and Arras. Beaumont-Hamel is two and a half miles south of Hebuterne.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, July 20.—The Scottish troops who yesterday morning occupied Mettern, two miles west of Belleau, are accused by their discomfited Prussian prisoners of having taken the village by a confidence trick. One officer declared frankly that he regarded the victory of the Scots as "unfair," because it was achieved in broad daylight.

The Scottish battalions attacked at 8 o'clock, when the weary garrison of the ruins of Mettern had settled down in their shell holes at the edge of the village to endure another day of bombardments, intermixed with gas.

When the British batteries suddenly laid a terrific barrage on their linked machine gun posts, enclosing the village on the north and west, the Germans thought it was an ordinary harassing fire, intended to kill without the support of infantry. They put on their gas helmets, again. Then smoke signals drifted across the enemy line from the British trenches. Suddenly glancing up, the Germans found strangers in kilts looking down on them.

German Couldn't Attack.

There was very little fighting except on the eastern side of the village, where a hedge, strongly wired, hid a number of machine guns, and these were effective in checking the advance of the Black Watch, who tried to swing south, across Belleau road and extend their action on that side.

The troops who were southwest of the village mopped up the majority of the prisoners, who tumbled out of their shelters with alacrity.

There were no organized defenses at Mettern, and the garrison had just begun to dig a system of trenches in the hope of getting better protection from the constant destructive fire of the British. They lay for the most part where the final wave of the advance in April had been, among the growing crops, and since then they have had

to hold this protective flank of the Belleau defenses with no better shelter than that afforded by shallow holes in the wheat fields.

They depended on a profusion of machine guns to keep off the British. Seven machine guns were found by the British in one small trench, and in nearly all the positions covering the village they were only about forty feet apart.

Enemy Expected Blow.

Curiously enough, although the attack was a complete surprise, it had been expected for almost a week. This paradox is explained by the fact that the Germans looked for the British to attack at the usual hour of dawn, after long artillery preparation, and it appeared never to have occurred to them that the British might drop out of the routine and show themselves when the sun was well above the horizon. The Germans had been warned that the British had designs on Mettern, but when the sun rose yesterday without disclosing a sign of life in the trenches opposite the Germans' conclusion was made for another day.

Altogether 377 prisoners, with six officers and many machine guns, were taken out of the shell holes and a trench around Mettern, while the troops on the right, who had also advanced their positions on the front, occupying the hamlet of Le Waton, took another hundred captives. Those captured at Mettern were all of the Eighteenth Reserve Division, a weak and badly hammered formation which had been holding this part of the Flanders front exactly a month. Some companies were down to thirty men and battalions were reduced to 150 by the constant shelling and the recent epidemic of influenza.

Foe's Morale Low.

They had received no drafts and their steady diminution in strength, without the prospect of relief from the line, had the inevitable effect of lowering their morale. They had been unable to improve their pitched defenses because of insufficient numbers.

"We did our best, but there were so few of us," said one non-commissioned officer apologetically.

Perhaps the most significant feature of this successful minor victory is that the German policy is thus revealed as a deliberate sacrificing certain divisions as "trench troops" in order to build up a striking force for the Marne battle.

The value of the British success lies in the strengthening of the allied defenses which protect the Flemish hills. The loss of Mettern makes it more difficult for the Germans to attack Mont des Cats from the south, an operation they have had in mind since their check in April.

Of Mettern itself nothing remains. Every vestige of the village with its famous old church and medieval houses has been swept away, and there is only a flat expanse of powdered earth and brick, seamed with crooked trenches.

RUBE MARQUARD ENLISTS.

Grimes, Also Brooklyn Pitcher, Joins Navy.

CHICAGO, July 20.—Rube Marquard and Burleigh Grimes, pitchers for the Brooklyn National League baseball club, enlisted in the United States Navy here tonight.

They took the oath on the stage of a local theatre, the announcement being made that they were to be players to play the "work or fight" order.

BRITISH CASUALTIES INCREASE

10,981 Killed, Wounded or Missing Listed in Week's Report.

LONDON, July 20.—British casualties reported in the week ended today total 10,981, compared with the aggregate of 11,911 reported in the previous week. They are divided as follows:

Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 31; men, 12,188.

Wounded or missing—Officers, 291; men, 12,188.

FRANCO-ITALIANS CLEARING ALBANIA

In Conjunction With Greek Troops They Occupy Many Villages.

BIG STRATEGIC MOVE

Victory Will Bear on Fresh Campaign for Recovery of Serbia.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, July 20.—Despite the scorching heat which is baking the roads in the mountains of Albania the Franco-Italian advance continues, meeting some resistance from the enemy.

The French, in conjunction with the Italian and Greek troops, have occupied numerous villages northeast of Berat, and last night the Allies' forces, advancing far beyond their reconnaissance, captured Meran and Mount Tice, moving along toward the western bank of the Gora, the entire eastern slope having since been taken.

The organization of the conquered territory and the provisioning and rehabilitation of the inhabitants already are under way. The importance of this latest Albanian victory is not being lost sight of even during the important developments on the western front. It is generally agreed that any offensive action in the Orient for the recovery of Serbia must depend upon similar action having been taken in the Balkans, and the influence on the attitude of the population of the invaded country and pave the way for a further advance.

The presence of Ebned Dasha's Albanian troops with the Franco-Italian Greek forces may exercise a great influence on the attitude of the population of the invaded country and pave the way for a further advance.

ITALIANS RETAKE MOUNTAIN POSTS

Successes Are Also Reported on Macedonian Front.

ROME, July 20.—Italian troops have wrested from the Austrians Monte Stabel and have completely reconquered Corno di Cavento, in the Adamello region of the mountain front, according to the official statement issued from General Headquarters today. The text of the communication reads:

In the region of Adamello our detachments with great gallantry wrested from the enemy Monte Stabel and have completely reconquered Corno di Cavento, on which the Austrians partly retaken themselves on June 15. The enemy left many dead and numerous prisoners, and a large quantity of material was captured.

In the Camonica Valley, in the Pado sub-region, on the Asiago plateau and east of Montello there were more intense artillery actions.

Macedonia.—Thursday night, after violent artillery preparation, the enemy attacked our positions west of Hill 1,080. Our troops, counter attacking, compelled the enemy to retire in disorder.

Albania.—On the heights of Mali Sliozek, in the bend of the Devoll, our detachments were forced to withdraw.

VIENNA, July 20.—(via London).—The official communication issued by the War Office says:

On both sides of Asiago an enemy advance was repulsed by a counter attack. In the Brenta Valley an Italian attack failed.

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